

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method for defining a context identifier when compressing header fields of data packets, the method comprising:

defining a context for a compressor and decompressor of a data packet flow, the context controlling the operation of the compressor and the decompressor,

identifying the context by a context identifier attached to the data packet and

defining the length of the context identifier in the context identifier of the data packet being transmitted between the compressor and decompressor, and

including a length definition of said context identifier as a part of a context identifier field of the data packet being transmitted.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the context identifier comprises a field of at least one bit
for defining the length of the context identifier.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the length of the context identifier is defined in each
transmitted context identifier of the data packet.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the length of the context identifier is defined only in the
context identifier of the data packet transmitted first.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

defining a different length for the context identifier of the
data packet flow transferred from the compressor to the
decompressor than for the context identifier of the data

packet flow transferred from the decompressor to the compressor.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing said header field compression according to the ROHC definition.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing said header field compression on the radio interface of a mobile system, such as the UMTS system.

8. (Currently amended) A compression system for compressing header fields of data packets, which system comprises a compressor for compressing a data packet flow being transmitted and a decompressor for decompressing a data packet flow being received,

wherein the compressor and the decompressor of the data packet flow are configured to be defined by a context, by means of

which context the operation of the compressor and decompressor is controlled, and the context is configured to be identified by a context identifier attached to ~~the~~ a data packet, and

the length of the context identifier is configured to be defined in the context identifier of the data packet being transmitted between the compressor and the decompressor, and a length definition of said context identifier is arranged to be included within a context identifier field of the data packet being transmitted.

9. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the context identifier comprises a field of at least one bit for defining the length of the context identifier.

10. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the length of the context identifier is configured to be defined in the context identifier of each data packet being transmitted.

11. (New) A network element (RNC) for a mobile communication system comprising a header field compression system including a compressor and a decompressor, the header field compression system being arranged to:

define a context for a data packet connection between the compressor and the decompressor as one parameter of the connection, the context controlling operation of said compressor and said decompressor and comprising a context identifier to identify data packet connections,

define a length for the context identifier for data transmission between the compressor and the decompressor, and

wherein said network element is arranged to include a length definition of said context identifier as a part of a context identifier field of the data packet being transmitted.

12. (New) A mobile station for a mobile communication system comprising a header field compression system including a compressor and a decompressor, the header field compression system being arranged to:

define a context for a data packet connection between the compressor and the decompressor as one parameter of the connection, the context controlling operation of said compressor and said decompressor and comprising a context identifier to identify data packet connections,

define a length for the context identifier for data transmission between the compressor and the decompressor, and

wherein said mobile station is arranged to include a length definition of said context identifier as a part of a context identifier field of a data packet being transmitted.